Foodgrain subsidy

591. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy spent during the year 2007-08 for procuring and distributing foodgrains and other essential commodities to the consumers;

(b) the percentage of subsidy going to the consumers straight way, and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to provide the lion share of subsidy for the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that the amount of subsidy spent during the year 2007-08 was as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Consumer Subsidy	Subsidy incurred	% to total subsidy incurred
Wheat	10,789	34.75
Rice	19,604	63.14
Sub Total	30,393	97.89
Buffer subsidy	654	2.11
Total subsidy	31,047	100.00

This apart, Rs. 67 crore was released to FCI to compensate losses incurred by the State Governments/FCI in distributing levy sugar in the States/UTs during 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Out of total consumer subsidy, 97.89% of subsidy is utilized directly for issuing subsidised foodgrains to the consumers under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

Foodgrain stock

592. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the increased procurement of foodgrains, stocks with Government against the minimum buffer norm and the surplus percentage over the required buffer in the year 2008 from January to December;

(b) the actual stocks Government has at present as compared to the buffer norm; and

(c) the details of Government's proposal to deal with surplus stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Procurement of rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 has been 284.91 lakh tons. In the current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 (Oct. 2008-Sept. 2009), 220.25 lakh tons of rice has been procured by 16.2.2009. During Rabi Marketing Season, 2008-09 (April 2008 - March 2009), there has been procurement of 226.82 lakh tons of wheat.